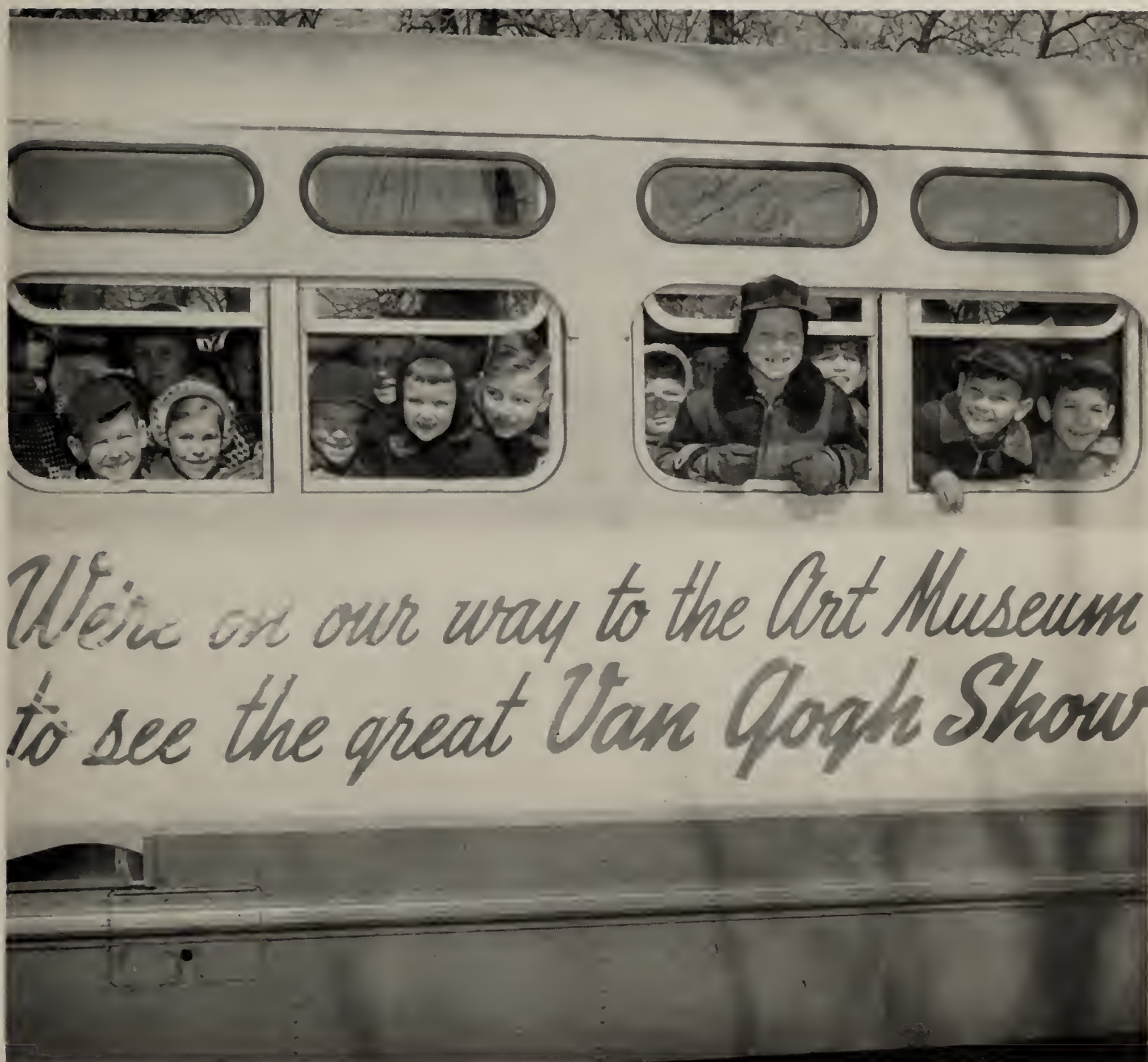


MUSEUM NEWS

SUMMER
1954
NUMBER 154



24,352 Children saw the Van Gogh Exhibition

THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART
FOUNDED BY EDWARD DRUMMOND LIBBEY



SPRING IN ITALY

JOHN SHARP

41ST ANNUAL EXHIBITION CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN PAINTINGS

ONE WAY OF CHARACTERIZING AMERICAN ART at the middle of the twentieth century would be to call it the art of many individuals, few of whom are united in movements which can be tagged with significant titles. The tremendous diversity of style and visual content which this implies makes ours a time as rich as any in our history in restlessness of the imagination and boldness of expression. But it is this very diversity which presents such confusing problems to the gallery visitor. Conflicting ideas are continually being debated in the press, but in the last analysis only through first hand experience of study, comparison and selection among actual works can one arrive at a fair and reasoned opinion.

For forty-one years the Museum has had this as its aim in bringing to the Museum each summer a representative cross section of outstanding current work. This year there are many names familiar from past exhibitions, but more than a quarter of the sixty-five artists represented are making their first appearances in our galleries. Two of the men included have particular local interest. Robert Brackman, whose "In a Midday Light" belongs to our collection, was a juror for the 1953 Toledo Area Artists Exhibition; a member of this year's jury, Xavier Gonzalez of Western Reserve University, is one of the country's outstanding teachers of painting.

The Museum's purchases of contemporary American painting have traditionally been made from these annual summer shows. Since 1950 alone, nineteen works have been added to our collections, and the acquisitions from this year's group will continue to add to this catholic choice.

AN ENGLISH ENAMELLED GOBLET

ONE OF THE RECENT ADDITIONS to the Museum's glass collection is an important English enamel-decorated armorial goblet. Painted in seven colors and gold, the royal coat-of-arms of George III appears on one side, and on the other, the three feathers and motto of the Prince of Wales. Several such goblets are known, one of which, in the South Kensington Museum, London, is signed "Beilby NCastle, invt. & pinxt." They are probably all the work of William Beilby of Newcastle-on-Tyne, (1740-1819), who was one of the first to decorate glass with enamel painting in England.

We know something of the background of William Beilby and his family through the memoirs of the engraver, Thomas Bewick, who, as a youth, was an apprentice to Ralph Beilby, a master engraver and younger brother of William. Bewick lived in the Beilby household from 1767 to 1774. William Beilby had learned painting and enamelling at Birmingham and taught his sister Mary, eight years younger than he, who assisted him in some of his work. Newcastle was an important glassmaking center and the Beilbys found ample opportunity for the practice of their art.

Many pieces attributed to them are painted in white enamel alone. Among them are wine and ale glasses with flower, grape vine, hops and barley head motifs, popular as a decoration for drinking glasses in the eighteenth century. Three glasses of this type are also on exhibition in the Museum.



BEILBY ENAMEL-DECORATED ARMORIAL GOBLET

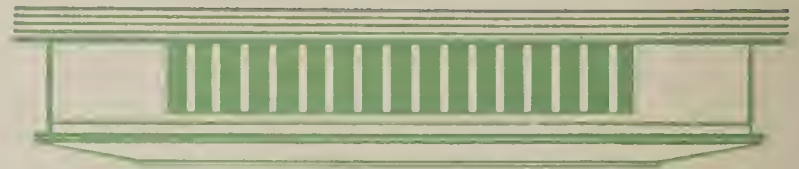
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GALLERY 8 SUMMER SHOW

THE TOLEDO FEDERATION OF ART SOCIETIES LENDING COLLECTION of paintings, drawings, prints and crafts will be on exhibition in Gallery 8 from June 13 through August. Inaugurated in 1948, the collection now includes forty items by twenty-nine Toledo and area artists.

Purchases are made by the Federation from each year's annual Toledo Area Artists' Exhibition, the selection being made by the Jurors. Items in the collection are available on loan to public organizations such as schools, churches and libraries.

The exhibition will include twenty-five pictures in addition to sculpture, ceramics and enamels by prominent Toledo and area artists. Represented in the collection are William Blakesley, Clyde E. Burt, Zella May Case, Robert W. Cremean, Arthur B. Dugan, Jacques L. Egan, James B. Henderson, Charles Lakofsky, Harold J. Lasko, Harvey K. Littleton, Hal Lotterman, Jeanette Doak Martin, Lavern E. Moll, Ralph E. Peotter, Carolyn Gassan Plochmann, Naoma Powell, Priscilla Rhiel, Miles M. Silverman, Ellen Sinclair, Sister Jane Catherine, William Staffel, Robert E. Stinson, Leah A. Vogel, Willard Wankelman, Evelyn E. Wentz, Jean Wetzler, Philip N. Wigg and J. Daniel Woodward.